

THE DOWER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to The Dower House's July Newsletter.

The summer is now upon us and there are so many lovely events taking place around the UK, I thought it would be nice to write about the history of the Henley Royal Regatta:



Henley Regatta was first held in 1839 and has been held annually ever since, except during the two World Wars. Originally staged by the Mayor and people of Henley as a public attraction with a fair and other amusements, the emphasis rapidly changed so that competitive amateur rowing became its main purpose.

In 1851 H.R.H Prince Albert became the Regatta's first Royal patron. Since the death of The Prince Consort, the reigning Monarch has always consented to become Patron. This patronage means the Regatta can be called Henley Royal Regatta.



During the course of its history, the Regatta has often been honored by visits of members of the Royal Family, of which the most recent was that of H.R.H the Princess Royal in 2010.

Since 1885 Henley Royal Regatta has been organised by a self-electing body of Stewards, at present numbering 60, most of whom are well-known and successful rowers and scullers. The Stewards' practical application of their knowledge of the sport to the actual running of the Regatta undoubtedly makes a great contribution to its success. A Committee of Management, consisting of 12 of the Stewards, is elected annually and is responsible for all planning and detailed organisation. The Stewards' primary consideration in all their decisions is the best interests of those who are competing in the races.

The 1839 Regatta took place on a single afternoon but proved so popular with oarsmen that the racing lasted for two days from 1840. In 1886, the Regatta was extended to three days, and then four in 1906. Since 1928 its increased popularity meant entries exceeded the permitted numbers for several events, and therefore Qualifying Races are now held in the week prior to the Regatta to

reduce the number of entries to the permitted maximum. In 1986, the Regatta was extended to five days, with an increase in the maximum entry for certain events.

In 1987, the stewards bought Temple Island, the famous landmark at the start of the Regatta Course. Extensive renovation of The Temple, built by James Wyatt in 1771, was completed and the important wall paintings in the main room were restored to their original appearance.

The Regatta has a long-term programme of conservation and tree planting, notably on the downstream portion of Temple Island and also upstream on the Buckinghamshire bank. This area of water meadow has been designated a site of Special Scientific interest (S.S.S.I.), and provides a managed sanctuary for flora and fauna.

In 1992, the stewards acquired the small island on the Buckinghamshire Bank, upon which the boathouse of Fawley Court once stood.

Philippa's daughter Charlotte took part in the open women's race at Henley in 2013 and came second in the race.



July Activities

Tuesday, 4th July – Keep Fit with Lorraine in the drawing room

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Tuesday, 11th July – Keep Fit with Lorraine in the drawing room

Tuesday, 11th July – Howard Tissiman talk on ‘Headbourne Worthy as it was in 1753 and how it changed since the Doomsday Book of 1086’

Wednesday, 12th July – Trip to Spring Pond Garden in Laverstoke, a private tour of the gardens

Thursday, 13th July – Holy Communion with Rev. Tim Selwood

Tuesday, 18th July - Keep Fit with Lorraine in the drawing room

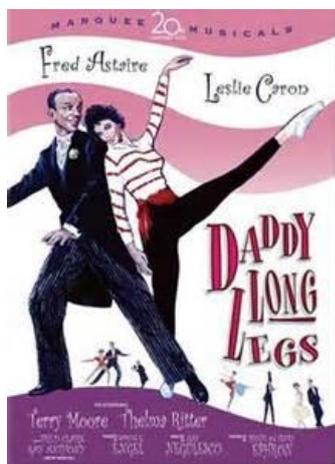
Thursday, 20th July – Anytime Club Film Daddy Long Legs

Tuesday, 25th July – Keep Fit with Lorraine in the drawing room

Wednesday, 26th July - Pedlars and Petticoats, with an afternoon of reminiscences

Thursday, 27th July – Anytime Club Quiz with Carol & Hannah in the dining room

This Month Film – Daddy Long Legs



On a trip to France, millionaire Jervis Pendelton sees an 18 year old girl in an orphanage. Enchanted with her, but mindful of the difference in their ages, he sponsors her to college in New England. She writes him letters, which he doesn't read. After 3 years, he goes to visit her at a dance, not telling her that he is her benefactor. They fall in love, but the usual movie-type difficulties get in the way before they can get together at the end.

I have the pleasure of including an article from our very own Victoria Pemberton.

Victoria's trip to The Palace

Here we were, my husband Nick and I, queueing alongside the railings of Buckingham Palace, awaiting entry to Her Majesty the Queen's first garden party of 2017. The crowds of people were bubbling with anticipation and excitement in their finery and glitz. We two were certainly no exception!

News of the invitation had arrived by e-mail to Nick in January 2017 with the actual invitation from The Lord Chamberlain, popping through our letter box in early April – that made it seem 'real'. I must explain that it was purely Nick's hard work and dedication to his work that we were going – I am merely the supporting act!

A little background.....

When Nick and I met in early 1979 we were both serving members of HM Armed Forces based in Cyprus. I was based at Dhekelia Garrison serving with the Women's Royal Army Corps and Nick with the Royal Corps of Signals but on detachment to the United Nations Peace-keeping Forces on the Island. We married in December that year and have been firmly together ever since.

When Nick made the decision to leave the army in 1982, he joined HM Prison Service, commencing at HMP Winson Green in Birmingham, then HMP Wakefield, Yorkshire and in early 1984 moved to HMP Winchester. Myself and our two young children joined him from Germany in May of that year and have very much enjoyed living and working in this great, historic city.

Around sixteen years ago Nick came to realise that the number of armed forces veterans in prison were increasing. Some had entered the criminal justice system through hardship after leaving the constraints and protection of their military service. He became more involved and received the backing of his Governor to serve as a Key worker to those people. This gradually grew and indeed serving members too, were entering the system due to the disbandment of military prisons, such as Colchester. This seemed to have been exacerbated due to some of the dreadful conflicts such as Kosovo, the Gulf wars, Afghanistan etc. Much of this work was undertaken in his off-duty time.

The government and prison authorities also became aware and concerned that veterans required perhaps a little extra or diverse support to facilitate a successful rehabilitation and return to civilian life. In 2010 Nick's position as Armed Forces Representative for HMP Winchester was made official and he has continued in the role to this day despite being now semi-retired.

He has also worked tirelessly, as an Ambassador, for the charity ‘Care After Combat’ as an Ambassador. The charity was set-up in 2014 by Jim Davidson OBE (comedian and entertainer) and has Simon Weston CBE (veteran of the Falklands conflict) as its Patron. Care After Combat are a UK based charity providing professional assistance for the well-being of veterans and their families. Their Mission Statement, “Is to support veterans with alcohol and substance misuse problems and the reduction in numbers of re-offending veterans in the criminal justice system.”

In recent years Nick has received a number of accolades, including an HM Prison Service Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014 and in 2016 an award from The High Sheriff of Hampshire for “Great and valuable services to the community”.

My turn.....



My outfit consisted of a very pale pink shift dress with a large black and pale grey floral design on the front and back, matching jacket and black piping around the neck and arms of the dress and down the front edge of the jacket. I wore a large fascinator (alternative to a hat) of black and pale pink, grey leather handbag and shoes. I’m not normally one for dressing-up but I did feel very special and quite ‘the part’. Although dry, it was very breezy and therefore a challenge to retain the fascinator which turned into a potential giant Frisbee, with each gust! I wasn’t

alone, many ladies were clutching at their hats and fascinators during the afternoon.

Back to The Palace.....

After stringent security checks, we were granted entry through the Front Gates and made our way with hordes of others towards the Grand Entrance and into a large courtyard where armed police were present; only stopping briefly to take photographs but encouraged to keep on moving by the officers. Into the building’s beautiful interior itself, we were instructed not to take photographs; therefore, we had to make do with gazing in wonder. We emerged out of the palace into the sunshine and onto the West Terrace, looking out onto the garden party and of course, the glorious gardens themselves. We were amazed at the amount of guests already in the



grounds because we had arrived at 2.30pm with entry given as 3 o' clock. To the left stood a long, thin marquee which was 'The Main Tea Tent' with tables and seating outside but all full of lively and animated garden-party goers. On the far side of the lawn (famous for its chamomile) was 'The Royal Tea Tent' in front of the lake and to its right 'The Diplomatic Tea Tent'.



Two military bands played in turn, The Band of The Royal Tank Regiment next to the Royal Tent and The Band of The Welsh Guards across the lawn towards side of the West Terrace, the music varying from classical to the more up-beat and even 'jaunty'. We had a lovely wander, taking in the sights and sounds, the ladies in their gorgeous outfits with immaculate detail and colour coordination, gentlemen in their lounge suits or morning coats. Of course, there were service personnel very smart in their uniforms, not just from the UK but we spotted uniforms from Australia, Italy, New Zealand and Canada – including a female Mountie who attracted a great deal of attention in her red serge tunic and long, formal skirt, happily posing for photographs with admiring, fellow guests.

The lake and its island were a vision to behold and as I admired the swans, I wondered if they knew how special they were. All swans belong to the Monarch but how delightful and lucky these fowl were to be residing in her back garden!

We headed to the Arboretum and Rose Garden and then lingered in amongst the commemorative trees (planted by various Members of the Royal Family over the years) to listen to the band – there was plenty of seating available.

Her Majesty and the Duke were due to arrive at 4pm and so at around 3.30pm Nick and I began queueing at the Tea Tent which took much longer than anticipated. We found ourselves just about to help ourselves to the spread when suddenly a member of the servery informed us that Her Majesty was about to arrive, they all stood to attention. We turned around to look toward the West Terrace just as the National Anthem struck up, it was difficult to see anything from our position deep inside the tent and the vast number of crowds stood waiting for the Queen. We could see the Yeoman of the Guard, the Queen's bodyguard escorting the royal party and making their way through the crowd down the steps onto the lawn.

Tea recommenced and we helped ourselves to a wonderful array of sandwiches, wraps, pastries and cakes. We were offered tea (of course), iced coffee or fruit juices and then found somewhere to 'perch' to enjoy the tea treat. I particularly liked the mint and cucumber sandwiches, all cut so daintily and the tiny scones with a 'dollop' of cream and jam on top. All so quintessentially English and pleasant. Apparently, at this garden party alone, approximately 20,000 slices of cake, 20,000 sandwiches and 27,000 cups of tea were served.

Making our way towards the back of the crowds, it became clear that we wouldn't see much of the royal party, if anything. We later discovered that the Queen was in the company of The Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Princess Anne, the Earl of Wessex and Princess Beatrice. We were incredulous to learn that we had been amongst 8,000 guests in attendance that afternoon! The Gentlemen of Arms continued to form lanes for the Queen as she progressed and we could only see the tips of their partisans (a type of pole-arm). Sadly, my much practised curtsy wouldn't be required today!

About the Garden.....

Like the palace itself, the garden has undergone many changes over the years. Covering nearly 40 acres, including the 3 acre lake, the north side occupied part of the original site of a mulberry garden laid out by James I in 1609. In 1703 the Duke of Buckingham arranged for a more formal layout and in the 1820s George IV commissioned William Townsend Aiton, chief gardener at Kew, to remodel the gardens completely. It was he who created the lake and built the mound and planted many of the London plane trees seen today. King George VI and Queen Elizabeth cleared much of the dense Victoria shrubberies and planted a wide selection of decorative flowering trees and shrubs – notably the tremendous 170 metre long Herbaceous Border.

The shrubberies have been continuously improved and in 1961 The Queen added a curved avenue of Indian chestnut running from the NW corner of the palace. There are more than 200 mature trees in the garden with fine specimens of choice trees. Although very much considered a spring garden, recent additions have provided more plants for summer colour like hoheria, agapanthus and hydrangea. The Rose Garden contains formal beds of hybrid tea and floribunda roses and behind the Admiralty Summer House there are shrub and climber roses. In the centre of the Rose Garden stands the imposing Waterloo Vase, made from carrara marble and positioned there in 1903. Originally made for Napoleon, it was given by King Edward VII. A small waterfall was installed in 1991 to circulate the lake water.

A survey of the garden by the London Natural History Society has revealed a wealth of flora a fauna, some of it quite rare. Two species of fungi new to science were found, including a small mushroom found growing in a bed of holly bushes. The garden is a nesting site for many native birds and the great-crested grebe has nested on the island in the lake for the last few years. The lake also provides a refuge for water birds including coots, moorhens, shelduck, mallard and geese. Captive birds include red-breasted geese, ruddy shelduck and emperor geese. There is a distinct “long grass” policy in places to provide a range of habitats for wildlife. Since 1991 all of the grass clippings, prunings and leaves gathered in the garden – as well as some of the horse manure from the adjacent Royal Mews – are recycled on site

At the ‘close of play’

Eventually, the time came to depart the Palace and our special afternoon. However, what a wonderful time we had and what lovely memories to cherish for a lifetime. Our dear grand-daughters, Leah 3 years old and Elouise, approaching 2 years old, love to look at our photographs and images of The Queen in her finery, especially her crown and jewels! Leah told me recently that she will be, “Going to see the lovely Queen very soon, probably in the morning”. Let’s hope so.....sometime.....

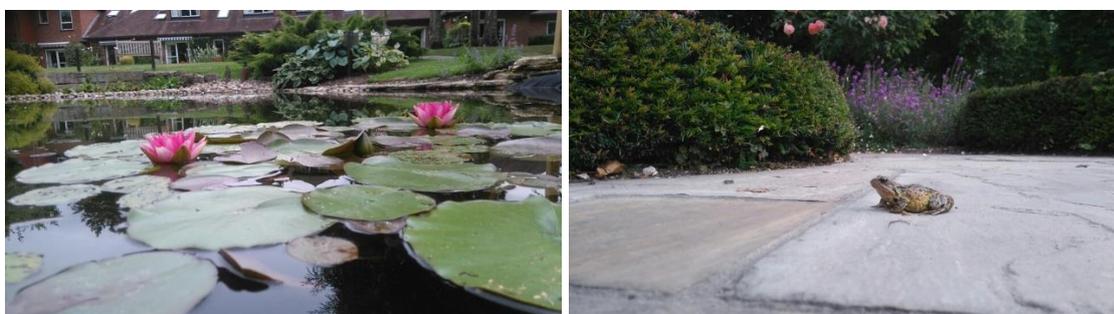
Just as well the curtsy wasn’t required because it was rather clumsy in nature; as some of my colleagues and residents will know!



July in the Garden

This is often the hottest month of the year and a great time to sit and enjoy the garden. Terry and I will keep plants looking good by regularly dead-heading to encourage a longer display of blooms and we keep the borders tidy by hoeing over the weeds so they dry out in the mid-day sun.

In the last month, I have watched the garden grow, roses full of bloom, the Iris in all their glory and the wave of mauve along the front the shrubbery from the nepeta. The pond is full of life from bathing birds on the waterfall to damsel fly's hovering around the water lily's. Being my first year at the Dower house this is all very exciting for me.



Terry and I have been busy watering all our new plants and pots and hanging baskets as we have had some very hot days this month. The hanging baskets have come ready planted from Cedar nursery's, they are full of plants and are going to be real show stoppers. It's been a battle with the slugs attacking the pots and the rabbits have been trying to get to all our new plants but we are winning, rabbit wire and slug pellets have been my ally. We have also been getting the garden ready for the NGS day, lots of final touches to give the garden to give it a real wow factor. On the day, we had 129 people visit our garden, we had lots of good reviews, people saying how amazing and how tidy the garden is, which was really good to hear. A fantastic day.

Over the next month dead-heading, weeding and edging the borders will be our plan of attack to keep the garden in top condition. Hopefully the weather will be on our side so you all can sit back and soak up the sun and enjoy our beautiful garden.

We would also like to thank Mrs Thomson for the primulas that she kindly bought for the garden, they are planted by the pond and were beautiful when in full bloom.

Editor's notes

I also wanted to send an apology to Mrs Denham as the prayer that was included in last months' newsletter was actually from Mrs Denham and not Mrs Middleditch as printed.

Monkey World Ape Rescue Centre

Donations of blankets and towels are needed by Monkey World Ape Rescue Centre in Dorset for their primates.

The monkeys and apes use donated towels and blankets in a variety of ways, some make beds or hammocks with them, others play tug-of-war or wrap themselves up in them, and the capuchin monkeys use them as trampolines.

Although each primate has access to heated indoor enclosures, as well as outdoor spaces at the centre, many choose to shelter or make comfy beds with the linen.

Our housekeeper Mary here at The Dower House, will be putting together a bundle of old towels for Sonya in accounts to take as she will be visiting with her daughter this summer. If any friends or family have any old towels they would like to donate we will be happy to receive them.

If anyone would like to contribute any articles to the monthly newsletter I would be delighted.

Philippa Thompson
General Manager

Welcome to our England Quiz

1. The M1 Motorway connects London to which English city?
2. How old was William Pitt the Younger when he became the youngest Prime Minister in 1783?
3. Which city has been known as 'Britain's Detroit' and the 'City of Peace and Reconciliation'?
4. 'S and DR' operated in north-east England from 1825 to 1863, what do the initials stand for?
5. Who was the final ruler of the House of Tudor?
6. The Roman fort and city Eboracum evolved into which present-day English city?
7. Golden Cap is a hill and cliff situated on the coast of which county?
8. Which Royal Park in North Yorkshire is a designated World Heritage Site?
9. What name is given to the chalk headland near Eastbourne, immediately east of the Seven Sisters?
10. In which county is the seaside town of Weston-super-Mare?
11. Name the only town in England which has a name ending with an exclamation mark?
12. In 1811, nearly a quarter of all women in England had what name?
13. What was the official language of England from 1066 to 1362?
14. What city was from 827 to 1066 the first capital of England?
15. John Betjeman described which town in Shropshire as 'probably the loveliest town in England'?
16. Found in Wiltshire, name the largest man-made earthen mound in Europe?
17. In which English county is the Eden Project?
18. What near Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, is England's oldest recorded tourist attraction?
19. England is how many times smaller than the USA: (a)35, (b)55, or (c)75?
20. Which city is known as the 'Seattle of England' because of its youth culture?

Answers:

1. Leeds
2. 24
3. Coventry
4. Stockton and Darlington Railway (the world's first permanent steam locomotive-hauled passenger railway)
5. Elizabeth I
6. York
7. Dorset
8. Studley Royal Park
9. Beachy Head
10. Somerset
11. Westward Ho!
12. Mary
13. French
14. Winchester
15. Ludlow
16. Silbury Hill
17. Cove
18. Mother Shipton's Cave
19. 75
20. Bristol